

REMARKS

Applicant request entry of this Amendment prior to examination of the above-referenced application.

As an initial matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on December 5, 1997 at the Examiner's office as memorized in the Examiner Interview Summary Record (paper no. 5). This paper reflects the items discussed during the interview. Applicant also notes the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.101<sup>1</sup> regarding the order of examination of applications. Pursuant to Rule 101, Applicant requests action on this application based upon its effective filing date of March 7, 1995.

The present invention provides a system and method for interfacing at least one ISA compliant device with a PCMCIA compliant socket on a host computer. The present invention is particularly useful to allow ISA and PCI compliant devices, which could not otherwise be used with a portable computer, to be used with such computers. The ISA and PCI compliant devices are situated in a separate housing from the housing in which the host computer is situated and in a manner such that the ISA or PCI compliant device can be disconnected from the host computer.

The present invention advantageously provides compatibility between a PCMCIA socket, complying with the PCMCIA or CardBus standards, and ISA or PCI compliant devices, even though the two industry standard are very different and include contradictory requirements. Thus, with the present invention, any number of different ISA compliant devices and any number of PCI compliant devices can be interfaced with the PCMCIA

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 101 states, *inter alia*, ". . . the examiner may act on a continuation-in-part application by using the effective filing date, if desired."

socket of a host computer. This allows a user to easily connect and disconnect numerous devices via a single PCMCIA socket.

The embodiments of the present invention preferably provide the functions necessary to interface with nearly all available ISA and PCI compliant devices. Embodiments of the invention preferably include one or more of the following structures: means for interrupt translation between the PCMCIA port and the ISA/PCI device; means for direct memory access translation between the PCMCIA port and the ISA device; means for translating a bus address latch enable signal between the PCMCIA port and the ISA device; means for translating between a memory read signal and a memory write signal of the PCMCIA port and a system memory read signal and a system memory write signal of the ISA device; means for translating between the PCMCIA port and an 8 bit or 16 bit device; means for DRAM refresh of the ISA device; means for providing a clock signal to the ISA device; means for supplying power to a device; and, means for translating the timing between the PCMCIA port and the ISA/PCI device. The embodiments of the present invention preferably include various combinations of these structures and can include only a selected number of these structures in accordance with the application to which the embodiment is to be installed.

By this Amendment, Applicant has clarified the subject matter of claims 1 and 11 to refer to the PCMCIA/CardBus standards (on the host side) and the ISA/PCI standards (on the device side). The prior art does not teach or suggest a structure as now set forth in these claims. Claims 22, 28, and 30 recite additional subject matter and thus are believed to be allowable for the same reasons supporting the allowance of claims 1 and 11. New independent claim 31 sets forth the subject matter of original claim 11 with the addition of

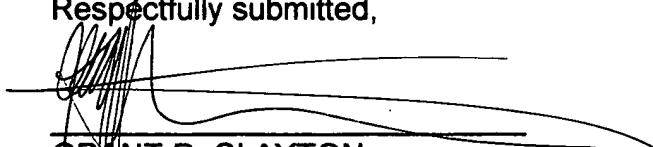
recitations to the structures which provide simultaneous support for both 8 bit hardware devices and for 16 bit hardware devices. The prior art does not teach or suggest the structure now recited in independent claim 31.

Applicant has now made the necessary claim under Section 120 in the specification to match the claim already made in the inventor's declaration.

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending present allowable subject matter. Thus, favorable action concerning these claims is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of claims 1-41 remains after entry of this Amendment and consideration of these remarks the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned.

DATED this 20th day of February, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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